



North American
Bus Industries, Inc.

**Headquarters
& Manufacturing**
106 National Drive
Anniston, AL 36207

Tel: (256) 831-4296
Fax: (256) 831-4299
Email: nabiusa@nabiusa.com
www.nabiusa.com

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

January 31, 2005

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: NABI Safety Recall #20051

Dear Sir:

Attached is a vehicle defect initial information report which is submitted pursuant to Parts 573.5, 151 (1), and 153 (1-6) of the National Traffic And Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Very truly yours,

North American Bus Industries (NABI)

Dan C. Allen
Director of Product Engineering

Enclosures



NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES (NABI)

VEHICLE DEFECT
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Date: January 31, 2005

NABI Recall No. 20051

MAKE	MODEL	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURED DATES FROM	THROUGH	OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
NABI	60LFW, 40LFW	2004	178	7/1/04	12/31/04	60' Articulated low floor & 40' low floor transit buses built with certain Arvin Meritor front axles.

Total Number of Vehicles: 178

Percent Potentially Containing Defect: 100%

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES, Inc. (NABI)

NABI RECALL NO. 20051

**VEHICLE DEFECT
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT**

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT: This is a result of a recall by ArvinMeritor relating to certain tie rod end clamps shipped to them between July 1, 2004 and August 31,2004 by their supplier Urresko. Reference NHTSA recall # 04E-088. ArvinMeritor reported: “An identifiable batch of tie rod assembly clamps is outside of the normal process for manufacturing clamps. The heat treat process created a surface hardness that could lead to fracture of the clamp. The defect was identified, to date, by the cracking of one such clamp.”

RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY: There is one such clamp located on each end of the tie rod assembly. The purpose of this clamp is to keep the threaded tie rod ends from turning once the correct toe-in adjustment on the front axle has been set. Should both these clamps break, the tie rod would be free to rotate and after several rotations could separate from one of the tie rod ends. Should this happen, the driver would no longer have control of the right front wheel of the vehicle and could loose control of the vehicle.

1) CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:

- On or about 1/19/05, NABI received a letter (copy attached) from ArvinMeritor noting the defect, with a list of axle serial numbers shipped to NABI that were potentially built with the defective clamps.
- On or about 1/20/05 NABI initiated an investigation to determine if the axles listed on the ArvinMeritor letter had been received by NABI and if they had been installed on any buses.
- On January 27, 2005 NABI completed the investigation and declared a recall of the vehicles affected.

- 2) **MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REPAIR VEHICLE:** The owners will be officially notified of the defect and NABI will arrange to have the vehicles inspected and repaired as required.
- 3) **REMEDY EXPENSE:** NABI, Inc. and ArvinMeritor will inspect and repair the vehicles free of charge.
- 4) **EARLIEST DATE TO BE REMEDIED:** February 2005
- 5) **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE:** There will be no public announcement.
- 6) **OWNER LETTER:** Draft notification letter enclosed for review and approval by NHTSA.

NABI letterhead

draft
RECALL NOTICE

February 2005

Dear NABI Customer:

NHTSA # xxxx

NABI Recall # 20051

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI) has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 60' LFW and 40' LFW, buses manufactured between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004.

Our records identify you as the owner of the vehicles shown on the attached list that are affected by this recall.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

NABI has determined that certain front axle assemblies shipped to them by ArvinMeritor were built with a defective clamp on the tie rod assembly ends. The heat treat process used in the manufacture of the clamp, created a surface hardness that could lead to fracture of the clamp. There is one such clamp located on each end of the tie rod. The purpose of these clamps is to keep the threaded tie rod ends from turning once the correct toe-in adjustment on the front axle has been set. Should both these clamps break, the tie rod would be free to rotate and after several rotations could separate from one of the tie rod ends. Should this happen, the driver would no longer have control of the right front wheel of the vehicle and could lose control of the vehicle, causing an accident or injury.

ACTION YOU SHOULD TAKE

ArvinMeritor prefers that the owner or a recommended repair facility complete the recall campaign and submit warranty through ArvinMeritor's OnTrac call center. If this is not possible, ArvinMeritor or NABI will arrange to have the tie rod end clamps inspected and replaced. You may inspect and repair your own vehicle or take it to an authorized vehicle repair facility. ArvinMeritor will pay up to ½ hour to cover the inspection cost and an additional ½ hour for the replacement of the end clamps. Both standard repair times

include administration fees to file the warranty claim. For any assistance needed in locating a repair facility call ArvinMeritor's OnTrac call center at 1-866-668-7221.

Clamp replacement kits and service instructions will be shipped, at no charge, directly to the repair facility from ArvinMeritor's clamp supplier, Urresko. Once ArvinMeritor's OnTrac call center has issued a claim number, the repair facility can call or email Urresko, to have the parts shipped overnight to their facility or request ArvinMeritor's OnTrac center to arrange for parts shipment during the initial call. The contact information for Urresko's parts center is:

Jorge (George) Sylvester
8210 Garfield Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060
Ph. 440 205-9982
Email: jsylvester6@aol.com
9:00 am to 5:00 pm EST

If ArvinMeritor or NABI does not remedy this condition without charge on the mutually agreed upon service date or within 5 days of this agreed upon date, you can obtain assistance by calling ArvinMeritor at 1-866-668-7221 or NABI Customer Service at (888) 424-5844, Ext 7900. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington D.C. 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hot-line at 1-888-327-4236 if you believe that ArvinMeritor or NABI has failed to remedy the vehicle without charge, within a reasonable time, which is no longer than 60 days after your first tender to obtain repair. You may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of a problem associated with this recall. For more information, contact NABI at 1 256-831-4296.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

We apologize for any inconvenience this matter may cause you.

North American Bus Industries, Inc.